

2. First long dedicatory poem: Tulare Advance-Register, published to celebrate the completion of the Angra Tower, a distinctive clock-tower of a downtown Tulare redevelopment project. Editorial page (p. 12) of the April 17, 1975 issue. Reprinted here with poet's permission:

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

It started with one fresh idea
that fell upon an other
then an other
until Angra Tower began rising in
Tulare's mind
turning the first spade of earth
smoothing trowel on mortar
brick by brick
long before the new clock began
to operate

When builders scooped up
dust so thick
it turned high noon to darkness
the frightened people asked
"Tia Maria, what time is it
now?"

A blind woman leaned on her
cane
and read the clock's silent face
she told the waiting crowd
"It is half-past turning back time
and always has been
since Adam squeezed the first
year through his fingers
and asked himself
where did it go?"

A small girl pressed forward
braiding a ribbon into her long
thick hair
she said
"Tia Maria, I must ask you
what color will the tower be?"

The blind woman thought a long
time
until the image came to her
clearly
she answered
"It will be the color of truth
and the dome
like your ribbon
the color of sky"